(b) The amounts of foreign exchange spent on the imports of petroleum products during the last three years are as follows :

(Qty.—Million tonnes. Value Rs./crores)

Year	Quantity	Value
1991-92	9.45	5218
1992-93*	11.28	6360
1993-94*	12.075	7041

*Provisional.

Stoppage of work by ONGC in Nagaland

4760. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NAIK PANDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC staff has stopped drilling work in Nagaland because of the threat caused by the militant organisations in that area; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to give protection to the ONGC employees to continue with the drilling operations in that area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Work had only been temporarily halted.

(b) Security arrangements have been further augmented. Also, Govt, of Nagaland have been apprised of the situation.

Black Marketng by Dealers of Petroleum Products

4761. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state that the details of action taken or being taken by Government against petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies which have been found selling petroleum products in black market during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Defaulting LPG Distributors in Delhi

4762. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints about supply of LPG cylinders containing less quantity of gas to the consumers by the LPG distributors; and

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received from Delhi and other States during 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : (a) and (b) LPG Marketing Oil Companies have reported that a total of 11 established complaints of supply of underweight cylinders have been received from all over the country during 1993, out of which 7 complaints have been from Delhi.

Proposals from Gujarat for laying new gas pipelines

4763. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHAKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Gujarat for laying new gas pipelines during the last one year;

(b) whether the Central Government has granted approval to these proposal*;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH

SHARMA) : (a) to (d) No such, proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat.

NRI Companies interested in setting up of Oil refineries

4764. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some NRI group of companies are interested to set up Oil refineries in the country, particularly in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign companies who have expressed their intention in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) An application has been addressed by an NRI party to the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals to set up a 100% Export Oriented Unit refinery in Gujarat State. No final decision is yet taken on this.

Reducing prices of Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene in domestic market

4765. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the international prcies of petroleum have shown a downward trend in 1993 and currently in 1994; if so, what has been the ruling prices per barrel in each of the months in 1993 and 1994 and the average in both year;

(b) at what price India has contracted its requirements in 1993 and 1994 and what is cost, freight, tax and other components in petroleum, diesel and kerosene per litre sold in the country and what is the all inclusive average price in both years so far; and

(C) whether there is any proposal to reduce the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) The international prices of crude oil have shown a downward trend in 1993 which is continuing in the curernt year so far. The average price of marker crudes between January, December, 1993 and January—March, 1994 were as under :

	Dubai	Oman	Brent	WTI
January—December, 1993	15 30	16.07	17.39	18.91
January—March, 1994	12.91	13.29	14.03	15.04

(b) The average import cost of crude oil, diesel and kerosene during 1993 (January—December) and 1994 (January—March) is as under :

	1993	1994
Crude ($/Lbl)	15.17	12 95
SKO ($/MT)	196.93	177.96
HSD ($/MT)	183.34	157.68

The retail selling prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene differ from place to place on account of varying freight, sales tax, local levies etc.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Government at present.